



White-tailed Deer Management Plan/EIS: Chronology of Major Events

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| 1983 | First deer survey. Population size estimated to be 165-185 animals. Habitat condition described as excellent and no browse line evident. Damage to ornamental plantings and crops on adjacent lands reported as insignificant. |
| 1986 | Deer spotlight counts conducted by park staff begin. |
| 1992 | Long-term vegetation monitoring using paired, fenced and unfenced plots, on Mount Misery and Mount Joy initiated. Data collected in 1993, 1995, 1998, and 2003. |
| 1997 | Study of deer population size, home range, and movements relative to park boundary initiated. Spring deer counts begin. |
| 1998 | First response to Congressional inquiry regarding deer management from NPS Director, Robert Stanton. |
| 2000 | Congress directed the NPS to develop a plan to address the issue of deer management at Valley Forge NHP. |
| 2002 | Planning for new General Management Plan initiated, including evaluation of management goals related to natural resources. |
| 2004 | Cultural Landscape Report completed. |
| 2005 | Mapping and classification of park vegetation communities completed. |
| 2006 | Draft General Management Plan provided for public comment (October 2006). |
| 2006 | House Appropriations language directing park to start EIS and complete in 2008.

<i>"The public has been patient as the NPS has worked through its process in regard to management of the over-abundance of white-tailed deer at the park. Within existing funds, NPS is directed to begin the environmental impact statement for deer management. The Committee expects that the plan will be funded fully so that it can be completed in fiscal year 2008. The Committee further expects that implementation of the selected action will begin immediately upon signing of the Record of Decision."</i> |
| 2006 | Notice of Intent published in <i>Federal Register</i> 9/7/06. |